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THE CARE AND FEEDING OF ROOM-MATES

Room-mates are not only heaps of fun, but they are also very educational, for the proper study of mankind is man, and there is no better way to learn the dreams and drives of another man than to share a room with him.

This being the case, it is wise not to keep the same room-mate too long, because the more room-mates you have, the more you will know about the dreams and drives of your fellow man. So try to change room-mates as often as you can. A recent study made by Sigafoos of Princeton shows that the best interval for changing room-mates is every four hours.

How do you choose a room-mate? Most counselors agree that the most important thing to look for in room-mates is that they be people of regular habits. This, I say, is arrant nonsense. What if one of their regular habits happens to be beating a Chinese gong from midnight to dawn? Or growing cultures in your tooth glass? Or reciting the Articles of War?

Regular habits, my foot! The most important quality in a room-mate is that he should be exactly your size. Otherwise you will have to have his clothes altered to fit you, which can be a considerable nuisance. In fact, it is sometimes flatly impossible. I recollect one time I roomed with a man named Osage Tremblatt who was just under seven feet tall and weighed nearly four hundred pounds. There wasn't a blessed thing I could use in his entire wardrobe—until one night when I was invited to a masquerade party. I cut one leg off a pair of Tremblatt's trousers, jumped into it, sewed up both ends, and went to the party as a bolster. I took second prize. First prize went to a girl named Antonia Rudnitz who poured molasses over her head and went as a candied apple.

But I digress. Let us turn back to the qualities that make desirable room-mates. Not the least of these is the cigarettes they smoke. When we burn cigarettes, do we want them to be shoddy and nondescript? Certainly not! We want them to be distinguished, gently reared, restful and zingy. And what cigarette is distinguished, gently reared, restful and zingy? Why, Philip Morris, of corris! Any further questions?

To go on. In selecting a room-mate, find someone who will wear well, whom you'd like to keep as a permanent friend. Many of history's great friendships first started in college. Are you aware, for example, of the remarkable fact that Johnson and Boswell were room-mates at Oxford in 1712? What makes this fact so remarkable is that in 1712 Johnson was only three years old and Boswell had not yet been born. But, of course, children matured earlier in those days. Take Mozart, who wrote his first symphony at four. Or Titian, who painted his first masterpiece at five. Or Hanso Folkgung,

who was in many ways the most remarkable of all: he was appointed chief of the Copenhagen police department at the age of six!

It must be admitted, however, that he did badly. Criminals roamed the city, robbing and looting at will. They knew little Hanso would never pursue them—he was not allowed to cross the street.

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If you are allowed to cross the street, hie yourself to a tobacconist and stock up on Philip Morris, outstanding among non-filter cigarettes, or Marlboro, the filter cigarette with better "makin's." Pick your pleasure.

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